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A Philosophical Essay on Probabilities, by PIERRE SIMON, Marquis DE LAPLACE. Translated from the 6th French edition by F. W. TRUSCOTT, Professor of Germanic Languages, and F. L. EMORY, Professor of Mechanics and Applied Mathematics in the W. Virginia University. New York, J. Wiley & Sons, 1902. pp. iv, 196. Price \$2.00.

The first thing that strikes one about this book is that it has no index. The second is, that it has no notes, not even to the historical ch. xviii. And the third is that the translators have set themselves a task that is too high for them. They are evidently unfamiliar with the terms ordinarily employed in Probability; witness their use of 'hope' for 'expectation:' while at times the mere French text has proved too much for them; witness the confusion of 'sol' with 'soleil,' p. 143.

Recherches cliniques et thérapeutiques sur l'épilepsie, l'hystérie et l'idiotie, par BOURNEVILLE. Vol. xxii. Paris, F. Alcan, 1902. pp. clx, 236.

Part i. gives the yearly report (1901) of the Bicêtre and the Fondation Vallée, including an interesting memoir on schools for abnormal children in all parts of the world. Part ii.—Instructions médico-pédagogiques—shows the mode of recording and diagnosing cases received at the Bicêtre. Part iii., written by Dr. Bourneville in collaboration with MM. Boyer, Crouzon, Philippe, and others, contains clinical and therapeutical reports and suggestions, together with various notes upon pathological anatomy.

Experiments on Animals, by S. PAGET. With an Introduction by Lord Lister. The Science Series, No. II, pp. xvi, 387.

This is the second edition of a work issued in England in 1900 by the Secretary of the Association for the Advancement of Medicine by Research. It is an altogether admirable summary of the topic with which it deals. "Its earlier pages," we read in the Introduction, "deal with physiology, the main basis of all sound medicine and surgery. The examples given in this department are not numerous; they are, however, sufficiently striking, as indications that, from the discovery of the circulation of the blood onwards, our knowledge of healthy animal function has been mainly derived from experiments on animals. The chief bulk of the work is devoted to the class of investigations which are most frequent at the present day" (bacteriology, action of drugs). The concluding part of the volume discusses the Vivisection Act of 1876.

Response in the Living and Non-Living, by J. C. BOSE. London, New York and Bombay, Longmans, Green and Co., 1902. pp. xix, 199.

In this work the author has brought together and amplified the results of a series of papers, published between 1900 and 1902, the aim of which is to prove that "living response in all its diverse manifestations is found to be only a repetition of responses seen in the inorganic." He finds in animal, plant and metal the same phenomena of negative variation, the same relation between stimulus and response, the same effect of superposition of stimuli, the same fatigue effects, the same effects of stimulants, depressants and poisons! The papers referred to have been published in reputable magazines, and a part of the author's experimental work was done in the laboratory of the Royal Institution. The tone of the book is confident, even dogmatic; the illustrations are numerous and convincing.

And yet—what is the experimental basis of the conclusions? (1) Certain limited aspects of the changes produced in muscular, nervous and plant tissue by certain modes of stimulation, and (2) certain electrolytic effects appearing when moist conductors are brought into contact with metallic surfaces and these are caused to vibrate! The superficial analogy between these two classes of results (and under the former heading the results are not accurately described) is to read us the riddle of life and the mechanism of life! It may very well be that all these things "are determined . . . by the working of laws that know no change, acting equally and uniformly throughout the organic and the inorganic worlds;" at any rate, many of us hope that it is so. But knowledge is not advanced by the ignoring of large classes of facts and the application of a method of crude analogy to the rest.

More Letters of Charles Darwin: a Record of his Work in a Series of hitherto unpublished Letters. Edited by F. DARWIN and A. C. SEWARD. New York, D. Appleton & Co. 1903. Vol. I, pp. xxiv, 494; Vol. II, pp. viii, 508.

This is an extraordinarily interesting book. By the help of unpublished letters and other material not available for the *Life and Letters*, the editors have been able, with very few repetitions from the latter book, to give a practically complete account of Darwin's life work. The letters are grouped under the headings Evolution, Geographical Distribution, Man, Geology, Botany, Vivisection and Miscellaneous Subjects. Both volumes are illustrated: portraits are given of Darwin and his wife, of Romanes, F. Müller, Lyell, Forbes, Hooker, Henslow, Huxley, Gray and others. The editors are to be congratulated upon their completion of a work which will have a permanent value in the history of science.

Pure Sociology, by L. F. WARD. New York, The Macmillan Co., 1903. pp. xii, 607.

This bulky work contains the author's revision of lecture courses delivered in 1897-9 at the Universities of Chicago, West Virginia and Stanford. The writer "regards all social phenomena as *pure* which are unaffected by the purposeful efforts of man and of society itself." He consequently prints, as a sub-title: *A Treatise on the Origin and Spontaneous Development of Society*. The book falls into three parts: *Taxis*, which discusses the general characteristics of pure sociology, its subject-matter and methods; *Genesis*, which treats of the biological origin of the subjective faculties, of social mechanics, statics and dynamics, and of the social forces, ontogenetic, phylogenetic and sociogenetic; and *Telesis*, which deals with the biological origin of the objective faculties, the conquest of nature, and the socialization of achievement.

Les grand philosophes: Aristote. Par C. PIAT. Paris, F. Alcan, 1903. pp. viii, 396.

M. Piat is the editor of the collection entitled *Les grand philosophes*, nine volumes of which have already appeared, among them a study of Socrates from his own pen. The present work is a useful monograph on the Aristotelian system. It is divided into four books: *Being* (definition of first philosophy; determination of the categories; substance; the derivatives of substance; causes), *Nature* (movement; the unmoved mover; the heavens), *Mind* (mind and its faculties; nutrition; sensation; thought; desire), and *Conduct* (the individual; the family; the city). A Conclusion traces the course of naturalism from Plato to Aristotle, and from Aristotle to Strato. The book is fully